



# THE LINK

**SALEM CITY  
SCHOOLS**

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## WAYNE ADKINS, TWELVE PRODUCTIVE YEARS OF SERVING SALEM CITY SCHOOLS

Don't try telling Wayne Adkins your child's money is none of his business, because it already is.

Adkins is stepping down from his post on the Salem City School Board this December after a dozen highly productive years of service, and he leaves behind a personal finance legacy that would make Donald Trump proud.

"The truth is you can go all the way through college and not have the tools needed to manage your money," Adkins says. "I'm extremely proud that we were the first school division in the state out of 132 to make personal finance a graduation requirement."

Adkins' passion for fiscally responsible behavior in

teens, as well as adults, has led to the State of Virginia using Salem as its model and making financial literacy a requirement for all of the Commonwealth's school children starting in the fall of 2010.

"My passion for this really began back in 1982 when I started going into classrooms for Junior Achievement and seeing the lights come on in these students when you showed them real life practical applications relating to money," he says.

Still, it took a while for this concept to evolve in Salem. Adkins began pushing for a Financial Literacy Class in 1999, but it didn't become a reality at the high school



Wayne Adkins  
School Board Member  
1997-2009

until 2006.

We stuck with it and got it done, and I couldn't be happier that we're helping these children," he says.

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## INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Please welcome our new faculty and staff for the 2009-10 school year.

### SALEM HIGH

Valerie Furrier-Math  
Allison McCarthy-French  
David Wallace-Art

William Cameron-IA  
Josh Jones-IA

### ANDREW LEWIS

Andrew Riddile-English  
Adam Simpson-Math  
Katrina Brodrecht-IA  
Brandy Colandrea-IA  
Rosanna Donodeo-IA

Carol Gardner-IA  
EAST SALEM

Robin Bowen-Grade 3  
Katherine Campbell-Title I  
Sarah Cocowitch-Guidance  
J. R. Edwards-Grade 3  
Shellie McGhee-Grade 4  
Kimberly Miller-Early Childhood Spec. Ed.

Elizabeth Pokorski-Early Childhood Spec. Ed.  
Sarah Quesinberry-Kindergarten  
Susan Turner-Kindergarten  
Amanda Bellini-IA  
Christine Clark-IA  
Rebecca Erwin-IA  
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Mr. Adkins being interviewed by Jean Jadhon from WDBJ7

“My dad was a blue collar worker who grew up on a small farm in North Carolina,” says Adkins. “He just taught me so many good common sense skills like staying out of debt, not spending more money than you have and always being in control of your finances.”



Student in the Finance Class at Salem High School.

As a child, Adkins was raised in Erwin, Tennessee, a small town located in Unicoi County about 12 miles from Johnson City and 40 miles from Bristol. It’s a long way from any of the south’s business hubs, but the very place where he discovered his business sense in a rather unusual way.

“It’s a tiny county that is 52 percent national forest, so I tell people that I was raised back in the hills where we piped sunshine in and moonshine out,” he says.

By his own admission, Adkins was far more concerned with having a good time than making good grades during his stay at Unicoi County High School. But fate often has a funny way of jerking a young man into shape, and Adkins found that out first hand when he signed up for a bookkeeping class. He had no interest whatsoever in this type of business elective, but because the class was made up almost exclusively of females, he saw it as a great way to meet girls.

Adkins met plenty of young ladies, but he also made a 100 on his first semester exam and then shocked his teacher even more when he informed her that he already had completed the entire workbook for the rest of the year. Suddenly, the time filler on his schedule known

as bookkeeping had become his calling.

“My teacher was afraid I would be bored the rest of the year, so I offered to help the other students and I ended up getting to sit down with all of the good looking girls in the class and assist them with their work,” he says.

It was a win-win for Adkins, but the rest of his high school grades weren’t exactly college material. Still, he was determined to be an accountant and to his credit, once he got into college he made the most of it. Adkins took his head for business to East Tennessee State University, lived at home, commuted to Johnson City each day and graduated from ETSU in 1970 with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Accounting and Real Estate

“If I had stayed on campus I never would have graduated,” he says. “I wasn’t one of those students coming out of high school with a 3.8 grade point average, so I make sure I always tell students that my past isn’t the best way to go about things.”

But if ever a past shaped a man’s present, it’s with Wayne Adkins. His dad was a self-taught electrician who worked for the Clinchfield Railroad and never

attended school past the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

“My dad was a blue collar worker who grew up on a small farm in North Carolina,” says Adkins. “He just taught me so many good common sense skills like staying out of debt, not spending more money than you have and always being in control of your finances.”

Adkins’ dad was just 17-years-old when he enlisted in the Navy at the start of World War II and like most people of his generation his father was very conservative in his beliefs and practices.

“I remember him telling me that he could have given me a lot more than he did while I was growing up, but he knew that it was more important for me to learn the value of earning something instead of just giving it to me,” he says.

Thanks largely to Adkins dogged determination and perpetual passion for financial literacy; Salem’s school children are now learning many of these same lessons. The personal finance program that got it all started in 2006 has now been expanded at the high school offering students a second higher level class.

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“Passion, determination and also patience on his part made this a reality,” says Salem School Superintendent Alan Seibert. “Wayne understands that it’s not just important what you do, but it’s also important how you do it.”

“These classes touch on a lot of topics that students are going to handle directly, very practical applications that will help them function better in society,” says Curtis Hicks, Salem’s Director of Secondary Education. “The teachers do a good job of keeping things very relevant.”

That current, topical approach to understanding the ever-changing global economy was recently recognized nationally when the American School Board Journal selected Salem as an honorable mention recipient of one of its prestigious National Magna Awards.

“It’s always nice to be recognized for what your school division does and for your forward thinking,”

Adkins says. “When your children are coming back and asking for another course you know you’ve done the right thing.”

“Our School Board is truly a team and each member really takes his or her role seriously,” says Seibert. “Mr. Adkins always understood that his role was to bring a business mind to the board to champion these causes.”

While he is leaving the board, he’s not giving up business education by any means. Adkins, who is Vice-President of Special Defense accounts at Salem Tools, will continue to head up the Virginia Jump Start Coalition, a volunteer, non-profit organization designed to improve financial literacy in students and adults, and preach his much needed message to anyone willing to listen.

“I feel honored to have been a part of the school system and I feel like I have made a contribution,” he says. “I always tried to use an analytical approach to make sure that we got value out of

every dollar we spent, and I think we’ve done a good job with that.”

Adkins and his wife, the former Sandra Turner – an Andrew Lewis graduate, have been married for 29 years. Their son Bryan graduated from Salem High School as well as Roanoke College and he and his wife have a son named Trace.

“The schools did a great job with my son helping him improve each and every year from kindergarten all the way up,” he says. “I knew we had a good system when I went on the board, but I didn’t get a real good appreciation of just how good we were until I started traveling around the state and seeing the admiration others have for us.”

And that’s an observation you can take straight to the bank.

**Mike Stevens  
Communications Director**



Mr. Adkins congratulating a student at a Salem City School Board meeting.

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Mr. Adkins being interviewed by WDBJ7 in front of Salem High School.

Continued from Page 1, New Staff

**EMPLOYEE NEWS**

**EAST SALEM**

**Kristi Haga-IA**  
**Edna Janney-IA**

**Catherine Lyle-Cafeteria Monitor**

**G.W. CARVER**

**Donald Barbour-ITRT**  
**Patricia Martin-Spec. Ed.**  
**Amy Wolford-Title I**  
**Denise Collins-IA**  
**Donna McCaleb-IA**  
**Kelly White-IA**

**SOUTH SALEM**

**Lynn Campbell-Reed-Spec. Ed.**  
**Nalani Burns-IA**

**WEST SALEM**

**Leslie Dishaw-Grade 3**  
**Stacy Vaught-IA**  
**Linda Wheeling-Cafeteria**

**CENTRAL**

**Arthur Ford-Spec. Ed.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Marilyn Shelor-Bus Driver**  
**Vicky Smith-Bus Driver**

This past summer, **Melanie E. Smith** (SS) and her husband, Earl, celebrated their 10 year wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii. During this visit, they met their goal of riding a motorcycle in all 50 states! During previous cross-country trips, they have enjoyed almost every National Park in the United States. Their favorite state for motorcycling? Utah.

Congratulations goes to **Kristyn Shepherd**, (SS),. She graduated from Virginia Tech in July with an Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Study.

**Jeff Hodges** (SS) will be the featured potter at the Blue Ridge Potter's show and sale October 30, 31, and November 1st. The show will be held at Cave Spring High School. He will demonstrate making teapots on Saturday, October 31st at 1:00 p.m. More information can be found at [www.blueridgepotters.com/](http://www.blueridgepotters.com/) Jeff's hands throwing clay are featured on the show's poster.

**Martha Deisher's** (SS) son, Adam married Margerete Holubar on August 29, 2009 in Asheville, NC. They experienced a wonderful honeymoon to Thailand and Bali. They reside in Atlanta, GA

**Greg Gallion's** (ALMS) daughter, Rebekah Gallion became the bride of Jonathan Price on August 1, 2009. Jonathan is a volunteer wrestling coach with Andrew Lewis. The couple lives in Salem.

Preston Wiseman, son of **David** and **Karen Wiseman** (ALMS) married Rebecca Carrico on July 25, 2009. Preston works for Service Experts and Rebecca is a photographer for Life-touch. They are living in Roanoke, VA

Drew Taylor, son of **Debra Taylor** (ALMS) graduated from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC on August 7, 2009 with a Bachelors in English.

**Continued on page 6**

**GIFTED EDUCATION.....Amanda Gibson and Kevin Simms**

We would like to thank each of you for welcoming us into your schools this year. We have been very busy coordinating Salem's Gifted Program activities across the grade levels. We have especially enjoyed coming into the classrooms, and assisting teachers in their planning of differentiated instruction as well as working with the students in a variety of settings.

We have already started our in-school, before-school, after-school, and Saturday workshop sessions offering our identified gifted students an array of opportuni-

ties to explore topics such as Drama, Geometry, Painting, and Literature to name several.

This year we will continue providing our Identified Gifted Elementary Students with multiple opportunities to explore foreign languages and culture. All of our identified gifted elementary students have the option of studying a foreign language online through *Rosetta Stone*. Languages they can choose from include Spanish, French, German, Russian, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese. We are also offering our Identified

Gifted Elementary Students an Introductory Series of Workshops exploring the Russian Language and Culture with a professor at Roanoke College who is from the Ukraine. These workshops will be held at Salem High School.

We are expanding our use of the online Renzulli Learning Systems which puts our identified gifted students in touch with engaging individualized resources specially chosen for their interest areas and learning styles. After a student's account is activated, **Renzulli Learning Systems**, a web-based program,

can be utilized anywhere a student has internet access. For more information on this incredible program go to <http://www.renzullilearning.com/default.aspx>

All of our teachers also have access to Renzulli Learning Systems as well. Once logged in teachers can work with their identified gifted students on special projects within the site as well as search for differentiated teaching and learning activities for all of their students. If you would like to learn more about this, please contact us.

We are continuing to offer

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## Gifted Education, continued from page 4

field trip opportunities to our Identified Gifted Elementary, Middle, and High School Students. In November, while parents are conferencing with their children's teachers, our Identified Gifted Middle and High School Students will travel to the Taubman Museum of Art in downtown Roanoke and tour the museum as well as participate in a hands-on class interpreting and analyzing artwork from the museum. We are planning another field trip to the Taubman Museum of Art for our Elementary School Students to be held on our Parent Teacher Conference Day in February.

We will be available at the College Planning Series the High School Guidance Counselors have planned for juniors and seniors to answer questions and provide information on the college application process and opportunities available to enhance students' portfolios as they consider what colleges they want to attend.

Thank you again for all of your support. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. If you would like more information about the Gifted Programs in the City of Salem Public Schools System, please log on to the City of Salem Schools website, and look in the Central Office section under "Gifted and Talented", or contact us at [agibson@salem.k12.va.us](mailto:agibson@salem.k12.va.us) or [ksimms@salem.k12.va.us](mailto:ksimms@salem.k12.va.us). There are also teacher resources available to you located on the G Drive in the Common Folder. Once here, open the "Gifted Resources" Folder.

*"Genius without education is like silver in the mine."* Benjamin Franklin

### LITTLE ONES BEING BORN

Congratulations goes to **Justin Halterman** (SHS) for the birth of his son, Elijah Wells, born on June 2, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Jennifer Shannon** (SHS) for the birth of her son, Tyler Richard, born on April 19, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Jane Sandel** (SHS) on the birth of her granddaughter, Emily Claire, born on August 14, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Mary Powers** (SHS) on the birth of her twins, grandson, Chase Ethan and granddaughter, Lilly Kristine, born on June 8, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Cheryl Gravely** (SS) on the birth of her grandson, Austin Andrew, born on October 4, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Laura James** (SS) on the birth of her son, Jake, born on July 22, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Paige Marable** (SHS) on the birth of her son, Trent Lee, born on September 8, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Terry** (Central) and **Tereana Pendleton** (ES) on the birth of their grandson, Gavin Hudson, born on September 16, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Sheri Smith** (GWC) on the birth of her son, Sawyer Reid, born on September 15, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Belinda Sowers** (GWC) on the birth of her granddaughter, Nevaeh Pearl, born on September 29, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Cindy Webster** (ES) on the birth of her twin grandsons, Colton Thomas and Carter Lee, born on September 21, 2009.

Congratulations goes to **Barbara Gresham** (Central) on the birth of her granddaughter, Clara Wimberly, born on August 27, 2009.

Congratulations goes to a former employee (SHS) **Laura Vent** on the birth of her daughter, Leah Grace, born on October 18, 2009.

## CONDOLENCES

**Our sincere sympathy goes to: Debbie Guthrie** (GWC) for the loss of her mother-in-law; **Gussie Freedman** (SHS) for the loss of her mother; **Nancy Rutledge** (ALMS) for the loss of her mother; **Linn Willingham** (ALMS) for the loss of her mother; **Scott Atkins** and **Kathy Atkins** (ALMS) for the loss of his mother; **Diane Washenberger** (Central) for the loss of her father; **George Vineyard** (Central) for the loss of his brother; **Everett Craighead** (SS) for the loss of his grandson; **Sherry Tompkins** (SS) for the loss of her father; **Susan Hannah** (Central) for the loss of her aunt.

### Revisions Proposed to Division REWIP Policy

At its October 13, 2009 meeting, the School Board received a recommendation from the administration outlining two revisions to Policy GBOA, Retirement Extended Work Incentive Plan (REWIP). Revisions are slated to be formally approved by the School Board on November 17, 2009.

The REWIP serves as a personnel management tool providing services and savings to the school division, as well as providing an opportunity for the retiree to extend their working relations with the division. For each year the retiree participates in the program, the division receives twenty (20) days of service from a ten-month retiree and twenty-four (24) days of service from a twelve-month retiree. The service may be performed through a variety of activities with substitute teaching being the most frequently utilized. For services rendered, employees approved for retirement under this program are paid an annual supplement, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the final salary they received in the position held at the time of retirement.

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## Employee News, continued from page 4

On September 23, 2009, **Greg Gallion** (ALMS) was inducted into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Honorable Order is a non-profit, charitable organization in the state of Kentucky. Only the Governor of the Commonwealth has the authority to appoint a Kentucky Colonel. Kentucky Colonels have been involved in such charitable efforts such as Hurricane Katrina relief, funding for underprivileged children's playgrounds, and the construction of the first cancer treatment center in Kentucky. Some notable Kentucky Colonels are Bob Hope, Clark Gable, Tiger Woods, and former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

Sarah Ward, daughter of **Buddy Ward** (SHS) and Dave Crowder were married on October 10, 2009 in North Aurora, Illinois. Sarah is a Veterinary Technician at Washington State University and the University of Idaho. Dave is a Post Doctorate researcher at Washington State University. They are residing in Pullman, WA.

**Zuheil Banuelos, Susan Bowman,** and **Allison McCarthy** (SHS) attended the Foreign Language Association of Virginia convention October 9-10 in Richmond, VA

**Mike Gibson's** (SHS) oldest daughter, Hayley and her husband, Matt and daughter, Elliana are being transferred to Augusta, GA. They have been living in Fairbanks, Alaska for the past three years. Her husband is a Captain in the Army has come home from Iraq. It will be great to have them living on the East Coast, says Mike.

Jake Sailer, son of **Rachel Sailer** (SHS) is playing the title role in *MacBeth* for Patrick Henry High School. The play opens on November 13th.

Ben Moore, son of **Ray Moore** (SHS) graduated from The Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond in May. He was ordained in July at Westhampton Christian Church in Roanoke and is now serving as the senior pastor of Bethany Christian Church in Richmond, VA.

Jamie Harless, husband of **Robyn Harless** (SHS) was inducted into the Emory and Henry College Sports Hall of Fame in September.

**Regina Meredith** (SHS) attended the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Conference in Dallas, TX. The conference was held from June 28th through July 1st. The theme for the conference was "Making a Difference."

**Robyn Harless, Anna Dyer, Stefanie Fowler, Alisa Burns, Fred Campbell,** and **Thad Snyder** (SHS) went to J.E.B. Stuart High School to hear a speaker talk about TOK and how to integrate it with other subjects.

**Jamie Garst** (SHS) will be traveling to St. Petersburg, FL to be trained in IB Biology in December.

**Kyle Updike's** (GWC) daughter, Hannah, is studying this semester in Ireland. She will be there until December 13th. She, also, has been spending time in England and Scotland. She is a junior at Roanoke College majoring in English and Spanish.

**Leigh Ann Bowen** (ES) married Scott Murphy on August 8, 2009. Congratulations, Leigh Ann.

Hannah Farrell, daughter of **Dawn Farrell** (ES) attending the Junior Congressional Youth Leadership in Washington, DC this summer.

**Amanda Bellini** (ES) is engaged to Andrew Powers, A January wedding

is planned.

Dere' Hicks, grandson of **George Vineyard** (Central) will graduate from the University of Illinois in December and plans to play the NFL next year.

## Revisions Proposed to Division REWIP Policy, continued

Employees may recall that last year the School Board re-titled the policy from its better known acronym ERIP (Early Retirement Incentive Program) to REWIP to emphasize that the program provides an incentive option for retirees to continue their working relationship with the division. The School Board also deleted all references to the retiree's age as a criterion for continued participation. Additionally, the School Board revised eligibility requirements. To be eligible for participation in the REWIP, the retiree must have 10 years of continuous service in the Salem School Division; and the retiree must be at least 55 years of age with 20 years of VRS service OR have at least 30 years of VRS service at any age.

The revisions that are currently recommended are (1) to change the number of years that a retiree may remain eligible in the program from 7 years to 5 years and (2) to change the annual deadline to apply for participation in the program from February 28 to January 31. Active participants shall be allowed to remain in the program to be administered in accordance with the terms of the program in effect at the time of the participant's approval.

In summary, current employees who desire to participate in the REWIP and who meet the eligibility requirements at the end of the current school year must apply between January 1 and January 31, 2010. New REWIP participants approved in 2010 would be eligible for continuous participation for 5 years.

**Russell Holladay**  
**Director of Personnel Services**

# The Coordinators' Corner

## HEALTH & PE Sandy Hill

As the school year begins many changes affect students in HPE, whether it is elementary, middle or high school. Our Kindergarten students may be having an organized PE class setting for the first time in their lives and our First Graders have now "learned the ropes" so to speak. Second Grade progresses to new levels of activity as they become capable of organizing themselves. The Third Grade groups are very energetic as they are practicing for fitness testing when they become 4th graders. Both our Fourth and Fifth Graders are taking the State's battery of Fitness Tests as well as those additional tests that may qualify them for The Presidential Physical Fitness Award.

When one becomes a middle school HPE student they must toggle back and forth between Health and PE as their grade is a reflection of mastery in both. Sixth graders love dressing in a gym suit for PE classes for the first time and understand the reason why as their bodies begin to change. The rest of the middle school groups are now "seasoned veterans" when it comes to the daily routine they will follow and simply go with the flow, all the while experiencing the many new activities found in the ALMS PE curriculum.

Students in the high school are earning credit toward graduation so the HPE classes become a true necessity, not just a part of their schedule. Archery Team Sports, Individual Sports and Dance classes, present exciting opportunities

for students. A tennis racket is something they might use again later in life and the track is not just for running, as students learn to value a brisk 30 minute walk. The purpose of any PE program is not as simple as it sometimes seems. Safety, exercise, and fun are certainly the "leading themes" as students progress through the year, but as teachers we are trying to instill the need to move their bodies, elevate their heart rates, and enjoy leading a healthy, active lifestyle.



## HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE Terry LaRocco

Fall is definitely in the air these days, forcing us to change our wardrobes and our routines more quickly than we would have in recent years. But change we must! We are also seeing the changes in our Social Studies SOLs and the ways that we address the topics for the betterment of our students and their learning. 2009-2010 is a textbook adoption year, so be looking forward to exploring new textbook offerings and materials to engage our students more fully in their learning and life experiences. There will be many options, some tried and true, while others will offer new ways of looking at the way that we teach! Enjoy the diversity as you have the opportunity to explore all of those options available for review.

Want to know what existing and new educational resources are available from the Library of Virginia? Sign up for the RSS feed for the LVA's ONLINE CLASSROOM at <http://www.virginiamemory.com>. You'll receive notices about new lesson plans, digital collections, as well

as events available at the Library. Also available is an RSS feed for our latest offering, *This Day in Virginia History*, from which you can receive a new and interesting primary source from the Library's collection on every day of the year. It's a great way to introduce your students to Virginia's unique story and the power of historical documents.

Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society will sponsor the annual Supreme Court Summer Institute, June 17-22, 2010. The institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors, who will spend five stimulating days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court learning about the Court, its past and current cases, and how to teach about them from top Supreme Court litigators and educators. We will also be in the Court to hear the Justices announce the final decisions of the term and attend a private reception at the Court. For additional information: [www.streetlaw.org/scsi\\_apply](http://www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply).

The Teacher Education Institute (TEI) is held at the Virginia Holocaust Museum each summer and is a 3 credit University of Richmond graduate. The class is

a six day course and is designed to educate teachers, librarians, counselors, and administrators in Holocaust and genocide. The course provides them with excellent teaching tools and information to teach this sensitive subject to students.

The 2020 Teacher Education Institute will be offered on the following dates:

- Session I      June 27-July 2, 2010
- Session II     July 11-16, 2010
- Session III    July 25-30, 2010

Tuition for this three credit course is \$75.00; room and board are available at the University for an additional charge. To register go to <http://www.va-holocaust.com/learn/default.asp?id=60>.



## LANGUAGE ARTS

### John Bolte

A link to proposed revisions in the Language Arts Standards of Learning is now on the Language Arts Moodle Page. Right now we are in the public comment stage of the revision process so be sure to take a look at that document. The final revision will not be approved until January. If there is a change in that calendar or major changes in the revisions there will be a notice on our Moodle page. Our Moodle page is a great place to share

teaching ideas and success stories as well as to ask and respond to questions. There you will find how fourth graders taught me how to use a Smart board and information about this year's Big Read and the newly established National Gallery of Writing.

Speaking of writing, let's get those writing folders bulging. Once again we have Writing Predictor results to help shape our classroom writing strategy and if you would like to discuss how to use this information or have a guest speaker in your classroom, just let me know.

All four elementary schools and Andrew Lewis Middle School are enrolled in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Once again we have our division bee in February and the Roanoke Times Regional Spelling Bee will take place in March.



## MATHEMATICS

### Beth Swain

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year! I hope your first weeks have been exciting and you are settling in for a great year. I would like to say welcome to the new mathematics teachers we have this year - Valerie Furrier (SHS), Adam Simpson (ALMS) - both are great additions to their respective math departments. In addition, I know we have several teachers in the elementary teaching math for the first time. I wish you all a very exciting and successful year. Whether you are new or have been here, please remember I would love to visit your classroom to observe or be an extra set of hands. I know we have lots of great teaching happening in our math classrooms.

Last year was another successful year for our mathematics program and I hope we will continue that success this year. Thanks to everyone for all your hard work with the children of Salem. Your presence in their lives does make a difference.

The Curriculum Framework has been approved by the state board. The document will go hand in hand with the 2009 Mathematics SOLs. The framework will define the mathematics content knowledge, skills, and understanding; assist teachers in lesson planning, as well as provide greater specificity of minimum content requirements. It will be a vital document as we transition to the 2009 SOLs. In addition, the crosswalk document should be available by the first of the year. This document will help us identify the changes from the 2001 to the 2009 SOLs.

Be on the lookout for some afterschool workshops to review changes in the 2009 Mathematics SOLs. I am planning a series of one hour workshops to help teachers transition to new material and new ways of teaching the material. I would encourage you to attend as many as you can - it is important to see the "overall" picture, not just what is happening in your grade level.

Don't forget to utilize the Math Resources folder on the G drive under the Common folder. I add new information as I find things that would be useful to you. If you are in need of a resource or idea for your classroom, please contact me and I will do my best to find what you need. I am always happy to assist you in any way I can. Have a great fall!

## SCIENCE

### Margie Secor

The new Science Standards of Learning are available for review at [http://www.Doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2009/10\\_oct/agenda.shtml](http://www.Doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2009/10_oct/agenda.shtml). Public comments will be accepted October 23 through November 23. Please review the changes and begin planning for possible changes to the curriculum for next school year. I will share more information related to curriculum revision in the months ahead.

Please remember to get your request in to the Science Museum of Western Virginia as soon as possible in order to get the dates and topics you want. Also, they ask that you coordinate with others at your grade level and in your school to cut down on travel costs.

Pacing guides for Science are in place, and some suggestions for changes have been made. I am keeping a list of these suggestions to discuss and possibly incorporate into the updated version of the pacing guide for next school year. Please continue to send ideas and suggestions as you think of them in order to make this a beneficial document for all.

I am often asked about what topics teachers are interested in exploring or having addressed through workshops, conferences, and the like. If you have needs or suggestions for inservice, please forward them to me at [msecor@saalem.k12.va.us](mailto:msecor@saalem.k12.va.us).

Please be sure to check out the Science Resources link on the Central Office website, which has a calendar of science events for each month, as well as professional development opportunities specifically for science. Also, the G drive has Science Resources for your use.